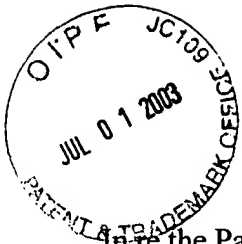


4



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Patent Application of:
PITTMAN et. al.

Serial No.: 09/897,644

Filed: 6/29/2001

For: Water Heater

) **Patent Examiner**
) Mark H. Paschall
)

) **Art Unit: 3742**
)

) **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE**
) **STATEMENT**
)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

JUL 07 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Mr. Paschall:

My client just recently received the enclosed third party submission containing patents and printed publications.

Pursuant to the requirements of 37 CFR 1.56, the applicant's attorney wishes to submit the following information in an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 to ensure that any material information is properly considered by the examiner.

Pursuant to the requirements of 37 CFR 1.97, this information disclosure statement includes the references cited on Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B herein.

This information disclosure statement is for U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/897,644, filed on June 29, 2001. Copies of the four references listed on Forms PTO/SB/08A

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION / MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that I have a reasonable basis to expect and believe that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to : Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on this date:

Date: 6/30/2003

Signed: Allan H. Grant
Allan H. Grant, Esq. USPTO Reg. No. 48,851

and PTO/SB/08B are enclosed herein. Additionally, an English translation of the relevant portions of the non-patent German reference is enclosed.

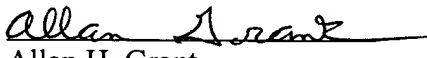
Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97(b)(3), this information disclosure statement shall be considered by the USPTO since it was filed by the applicant before the mailing of the first Office Action on the merits.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at (949) 752-2522. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address listed below.

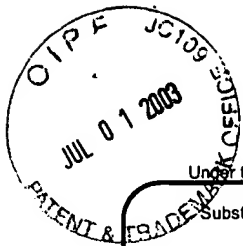
Respectfully submitted,

THE WALKER LAW FIRM
A Professional Corporation

Date: 6/30/2003


Allan H. Grant
Attorney at Law
USPTO Reg. No.: 48,851

THE WALKER LAW FIRM
1301 Dove Street, Suite 450
Newport Beach, CA 92660
(949) 752 - 2522



PTO/SB/08A (04-03)

Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)		Complete if Known			
		Application Number	09/897,644		
		Filing Date	6/29/2001		
		First Named Inventor	Pittman et. al.		
		Art Unit	3742		
		Examiner Name	Mark H. Pashchall		
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	1532.34e

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5,557,704	09/17/1996	Dennis et. al.	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

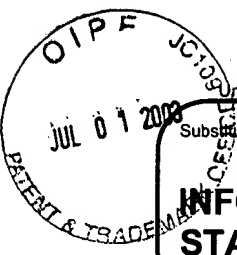
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ *Number ⁴ *Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		GB 2,305,233	04/02/1997			
		DE 3,925,549	02/07/1991			X

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
-----------------------	--------------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/897,644
Filing Date	6/29/2001
First Named Inventor	Pittman et. al.
Art Unit	3742
Examiner Name	Mark H. Pashchall
Attorney Docket Number	1532.34e

Sheet	2	of	2
-------	---	----	---

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		KLOPPERS, G.J., PEMS - Dickschicht - Heizelemente auf Email	X
		Mitteilungen Des Vereins Deutscher Emailfachleute E.V.	
		Band 43/95, Seite 77-88, June 6, 1995	

RECEIVED

JUL 07 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.